

presions of the Emperor and people of France, warrant a hope that the traditional friendship between the two countries might, in that case, be renewed and permanently restored.

A claim of a citizen of the United States for indemnity for spoliation committed on the high seas by the French authorities, in the exercise of belligerent power against Mexico, has been met by the Government of France with a proposition to defer settlement until a mutual convention for the adjustment of all claims of citizens and subjects of both countries, arising out of the recent war on this continent, shall be agreed upon by the two countries. The suggestion is not deemed unreasonable, but it belongs to Congress to direct the manner in which claims for indemnity for foreigners, as well as by citizens of the United States, arising out of the late civil war, shall be adjudicated and determined. I have no doubt that the subject of all such claims will engage your attention at a convenient and proper time.

OUR DEMANDS ON GREAT BRITAIN.

It is a matter of regret that no considerable advance has been made towards an adjustment of the differences between the United States and Great Britain, arising out of the depredations upon our national commerce and other trespasses committed during our civil war by British subjects, in violation of international law and treaty obligations. The delay, however, may be believed to have resulted in no small degree from the domestic situation of Great Britain. An entire change of ministry occurred in that country during the last session of Parliament. The attention of the new ministry was called to the subject at an early day, and there is some reason to expect that it will now be considered in a becoming and friendly spirit. The importance of an early disposition of the question cannot be exaggerated. Whatever might be the disposition of the two governments, it is manifest that good-will and friendship between the two countries cannot be established until a reciprocity, in the practice of good-faith and neutrality, shall be restored between the respective nations.

THE FENIAN INVASION.

On the sixth of June last, in violation of our neutrality laws, a military expedition and enterprise against the British North American Colonies was projected and attempted to be carried on within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States. In obedience to the obligation imposed upon the Executive by the Constitution, to see that the laws are faithfully executed, all citizens were warned, by proclamation, against taking part in or aiding such unlawful proceedings, and the proper civil, military, and naval officers were directed to take all necessary measures for the enforcement of the laws. The expedition failed, but it has not been without its painful consequences. Some of our citizens who, it was alleged, were engaged in the expedition, have been captured, and have been brought to trial, as for a capital offense, in the Province of Canada. Judgment and sentence of death have been pronounced against some, while others have been acquitted. Fully believing the maxim of government, that severity of civil punishment for misguided persons who have engaged in revolutionary attempts which have disastrously failed is unsound and unwise, such representations have been made to the British Government, in behalf of the convicted persons, as, being sustained by an enlightened and humane judgment, will, it is hoped, induce in their cases an exercise of clemency, and a judicious amnesty to all who were engaged in the movement. Counsel has been employed by the Government to defend citizens of the United States on trial for capital offenses in Canada; and a discontinuance of the prosecutions which were instituted in the Courts of the United States against those who took part in the expedition has been directed.

I have regarded the expedition as not only political in its nature, but also in a great measure foreign from the United States in its causes, character, and objects. The attempt was understood to be made in sympathy with an insurgent party in Ireland, and, by striking at a British Province on this continent, was designed to aid in obtaining redress for political grievances which, it was assumed, the people of Ireland had suffered at the hands of the British Government during a period of several centuries. The persons engaged in it were chiefly natives of that country, some of whom had, while others had not, become citizens of the United States under the general laws of naturalization. Complaints of misgovernment in Ireland continually engaged the attention of the British nation, and so great an agitation is now prevailing in Ireland that the British Government have deemed it necessary to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in that country. These circumstances must necessarily modify the opinion which we might otherwise have entertained in regard to an expedition expressly prohibited by our neutrality laws. So long as these laws remain upon our statute-books, they should be faithfully executed, and if they operate harshly, unjustly, or oppressively, Congress alone can apply the remedy, by their modification or repeal.

A REPRESENTATION WANTED FOR GREECE.

Political and commercial interests of the United States are not unlikely to be affected in some degree by events that are transpiring in the eastern regions of Europe, and the time seems to have come when our Government ought to have a proper diplomatic representation in Greece.

POLITICAL EXPLANATION.

This Government has claimed for all persons not convicted, or accused, or suspected of crime, an absolute political right of self-expropriation, and a choice of new national allegiance. Most of the European States have dissented from this principle, and have claimed a right

to hold such of their subjects as have immigrated to and been naturalized in the United States, and afterward returned on transient visits to their native countries, to the performance of military service in like manner as resident subjects. Complaints arising from the claim in this respect made by foreign States, have heretofore been matters of controversy between the United States and some of the European Powers, and the irritation consequent upon the failure to settle this question increased during the war in which Prussia, Italy, and Austria were recently engaged. While Great Britain has never acknowledged the right of expropriation, she has not practically insisted upon it. France has been equally forbearing, and Prussia has proposed a compromise, which, although evincing increased liberality, has not been accepted by the United States. Peace is now prevailing everywhere in Europe, and the present seems to be a favorable time for an assertion by Congress of the principle, so long maintained by the Executive Department, that naturalization by one State fully exempts the native-born subject of any other State from the performance of military service under any foreign government, so long as he does not voluntarily renounce its rights and benefits.

CONCLUSIONS.

In the performance of a duty imposed upon me by the Constitution, I have thus submitted to the Representatives of the States and of the people such information of our domestic and foreign affairs as the public interests seem to require. Our Government is now undergoing its most trying ordeal, and my earnest prayer is that the peril may be successfully and finally passed, without impairing its original strength and symmetry. The interests of the nation are best to be promoted by the revival of fraternal relations, the complete obliteration of our past differences, and the reinauguration of all the pursuits of peace. Directing our efforts to the early accomplishment of these great ends, let us endeavor to preserve harmony between the co-ordinate Departments of the Government, that each in its proper sphere may cordially co-operate with the other in securing the maintenance of the Constitution, the preservation of the Union, and the perpetuity of our free institutions.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, December 8, 1866.

The Columbian.

GEORGE H. MOORE, EDITOR.

BLOOMSBURG, SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1866.

IMMIGRATION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

WHILE there is so much agitation in Northern communities as to the future of the South, it is gratifying to read evidence as the following of the quiet determination of the Southern people to make their great resources as available as possible. Work seems to be upmost in the minds of the Southern people at the present time, and the many suggestions of application are being received with undivided attention, and put in actual practice.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of North Carolina, upon its session:

At a meeting of the Rowan County Immigration Society, held on the twenty-sixth day of November, instant, the undersigned were appointed a committee to memorialize your honorable body in their behalf, on the subject of the encouragement of immigration to this State from other States of this Union, and from other countries. The Society does not deem it necessary to go at any considerable length into the reasons which have prompted them to such course, as they are well known to every member of your honorable body. Suffice it to say that as one of the results of the late disastrous civil war, our State has been left destitute of money with the great mass of our people largely in debt—that the system of labor by which our lands were tilled before the war has been broken up and destroyed—that much of our best population was swept away and destroyed by the war—that since the close of the war much of our laboring white population without any sufficient cause, and as the Society believe, against their own best interests, have migrated to other States—that much of the colored population, now much less to be relied upon as laborers than before their emancipation, have also died or left the State; and that, as a consequence, our State is now greatly deficient both in capital and labor—that we have but little left except our fertile lands and vast mineral and other natural resources, without any adequate means for their development.

In consideration of these facts the Society would respectfully suggest to your honorable body the propriety of creating a charter for a company to establish a line of direct communication between one or more of the ports of this State and Europe, with a capital stock of not less than seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for the purpose of bringing immigrants hither direct from that country. The Society would further urge upon your honorable body to subscribe, in the name of the State, two thirds of the capital stock of said company. The Society for many reasons which cannot be stated here, are of opinion that, with proper management, such an enterprise would sustain itself, if indeed it would not pay a handsome dividend to the stockholders. The Society, of course, contemplate that the steamers composing this line shall also be employed in the export and import trade, as well as in the importation of emigrants.

But if no dividends should be derived from it, and even if the capital stock itself should ultimately be lost, of which the Society entertain no fears, it will yet prove of immense advantage to the State. If once a tide of immigration can be turned to our State from other countries, the Society believe that it will stop the migration of our citizens to other States. And not only this, but the Society believe that in that event a tide of immigration will be directed hither from the Northern States.

Northern capital, the Society believe, will then seek investment in our valuable agricultural and mineral lands, and be also largely employed in manufacturing purposes, for which the vast and exclusive water power of our State affords the greatest facilities. The result of all this, the Society believe, would be

to greatly improve our system of agriculture, build up for our people a home market, and finally to make our good old State what nature intended she should be—one of the foremost States of this Union. These considerations, and the large amount of wealth thus to be brought into, and created in our State, and the consequent diminution of taxes to our present population must, the Society think, be reasons of sufficient weight to induce your honorable body to give the subject that consideration which its great importance demands.

In conclusion the Society would again urge upon your honorable body the consideration of the plan proposed.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants.

WILLIAM M. ROBBINS,
JAMES C. SATTLE,
J. W. HALL,
LEWIS HANES,
JAMES H. FINNIS,
Committee on behalf of the Rowan County Immigration Society.

BLOOMSBURG, N. C. November 27, 1866.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, December 5, 1866.
DEAR CAPTAIN:—I suppose that after so long a silence yourself and readers have forgotten the existence of your correspondent, but I shall make no apologies, as perchance they might not be so well appreciated as a still further continuance in my taciturnity.

The city has again fairly aroused from its summer slumber, and there is every indication of a busy season during the present session of Congress. While we have history, the representative of high tragedy, at one end of the Avenue, we may expect the usual amount of low comedy at the other; a fair exemplification of which was shown on Monday in Thad. Stevens's motion to adjourn during the reading of the President's Message.

The Message, by the way, has given general satisfaction from its moderation and dignity of tone. The election of a delegate from the District as proposed by it meets with many arguments *pro* and *con*; the former going to show that with a delegate in Congress the interests of the District would receive more attention, from its being his particular duty, while the latter argue that what is now in some degree a duty of every member would be performed by one individual who would perform the obligation to succumb under the crushing weight of petitions, and, cast upon him, or shunning a Tarpeian fall, neglect the many to promote the advancement of the few.

The grand mass meeting and banquet given on Monday, as a welcome to the returning Congress, must have been intensely gratifying to the ultra-Radicals, in spite of its sombre color, nine tenths of the procession consisting of our colored brethren. The procession, after a thorough airing through different parts of the city, wound its way to the building on Seventh Street, cheering the larger host establishment, when opposite it, General (D.) Garfield (don't laugh, Captain), its grand marshal, where the feasting was kept up until an early hour in the morning. All was not harmony and concord, as several arrests were necessary to be made in order to preserve the peace, in spite of the soothing effect of one of Forney's usually temperate speeches.

The city is filling up rapidly, the usual concomitants of Congress, lobby-men and hangers-on, being fully represented. Hotel and boarding-house keepers, *et al.*, are preparing for the taking in of strangers in a scriptural manner or otherwise as the occasion may demand.

I will endeavor to send you a chronicle of passing events, at more regular intervals than heretofore, during the present session.

A. M.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

THE question, whether the constitutional amendment shall be adopted, involves a subject vastly more important than the immediate changes which these amendments are designed to effect. The first and great question is, can we amend the Constitution rightfully, so as to take from any State a power which it has not voluntarily granted to the United States? Does the provision in the Constitution, which authorizes its amendment, mean that a majority of two thirds in Congress and three fourths of the States have the power to make a monarchy out of the republic, and that the minority of the people and States are bound to submit to such a fundamental change?

If the power of alteration extends as far as now assumed for the purposes of these proposed amendments, then it is plain that the power also extends to the complete obliteration of States. The exception in the Constitution forbidding amendments which would deprive a State of its equal representation in the Senate can itself be amended and erased. The provision that no State shall be divided without its consent can be amended and erased. It is as easy to make New York two States, and New England one State, as it is to pass these amendments now before the people. If these are passed the precedent will be established. There will then be no limit to the changes which, in political excitement, will be urged on by Radical men on both sides. It is therefore the very body of the Constitution which is now in danger.

We beseech the Radical leaders to face this great truth and give it due attention. The future of this country is not within the view of living prophets; but there are innumerable reasons for the belief that the majority of more than a million now opposing the radical measures will in time gain the power in Congress and in the States. When that time comes, there is every reason to suppose that a sectional party will again spring up. That sectional party, however, will not maintain Northern against Southern interests. It will in all probability be a party in which the South and the West will be united against the Northeast. The grand questions of political economy, which are to be the controlling questions in our country, will be very likely to enlist men in the manufacturing and consuming parts of the country,

while the interests of the producers will tend to bind them together in other parts of the country. The South and West are more homogeneous than the South and the Northeast. The people of the South and West are much alike, especially along our great rivers, where they have a great deal of intercommunication. In that day of which we speak, a firm, unalterable Constitution will be an invaluable guarantee to the East and the North. A weak Constitution, easily amended, the subject of all the winds of popular caprice, will be as useless as the paper on which it is printed. Adopt these amendments now, and we shall have established a precedent which takes all the strength and firmness of the Constitution away from it, and deprives it of the vital force, which force is necessary to permanence.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

THERE never was a period in the history of any country when it was more difficult to foresee what a year or even a few months may bring forth. The speculations of the wisest have been harked in all that related to the war and its consequences. The most far-sighted have been as much at fault, since the war ended, as when it was raging. In the early period of the peace, things looked hopefully, and, under the benign influences of a patriotic President, the wounds between the sections seemed to be rapidly healing. But, ever since his constitutional policy has been trodden under foot by Congress, matters have been getting worse, and apprehensions have been expressed by men of the soberest judgment, that the party passions now raging so furiously will terminate in a civil war, extending throughout the whole length and breadth of the land. We are not of the despairing school, but it does seem to us that the great chasm made by the late war is not going to be as readily bridged over as we had believed and hoped; that the earthquake, whose rumblings have not yet subsided, but seem to be increasing, has given a shock not only to our institutions, but to the character of our people, and that we are not what we were—a nation prize constitutional liberty and representative government above all other human blessings; that, at the present moment, the public mind is rather yearning for stability, for repose, for security of property and of life, than for the semblance of free forms, without the substance. There is pervading all men's thoughts an uneasy apprehension that there is at this moment no great interest of society which is not set completely at the mercy of fanaticism and party passion.

The approaching session of Congress, it is feared, will add fresh causes of disquiet and alarm, and the call for "the veterans of the Republic" to protect that body against a danger which does not exist, is among the most ominous signs of the times. Whither are we tending? Farther and farther every day from the old landmarks of the Constitution, from old principles, ideas, and traditions; but where and how will our voyage terminate? There are many people who are beginning to feel uneasy whether Congress gives us republicanism or monarchy, centralization or State rights, so they give us something definite and permanent.—*Baltimore Transcript.*

A NEW ERA OF "SOUTHERN CHIVALRY."

IT is evident that a new spirit has been evoked in the South by the circumstances of the times, which must result in substantial benefits to that section of our common country. The system of slave labor having been overthrown by the rude shock of war, thousands of young men who, under the old regime of what was called the "Southern Chivalry," had been taught to despise labor and laborious business pursuits, now realize the necessity of earning a subsistence for themselves, and their mothers and sisters. And many of them have, in the spirit of true chivalry, risen with the emergency, casting away ingrained prejudices and assuming the proper responsibilities of the hour, entered upon their duties manfully. Incited by an honorable pride, many have put their hands to the plough on their paternal acres, determined that those who have a right to look to them for support shall have it. These young men are the true chivalry of the South; their conduct shames that of those who abandon their native soil to seek adventures in other lands, or those who loaf and swagger about, masking their indolence under a pretended chivalrous pride.

There is a capital field in the South for her young men to distinguish themselves in, and to prove how "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." Let them take hold of work resolutely, begin at the foundation, and build themselves a great edifice of agricultural and mechanical prosperity. There is a great lack of capital in the South, but this gives them immunity from the evils of speculation. Capital will follow when hard labor has been intelligently applied to the soil of those remarkable agricultural regions. They have the best cotton and tobacco lands in the world, and with these they can secure riches and pecuniary independence if they will discard their old prejudices against industry. We observe that the Southern press are exhorting their young men to stay at home and develop the resources of their own States, by working diligently themselves, and availing themselves of such labor as can be procured, until their waste places are built up and plenty shall again smile upon the land. This is good advice, and if the young men of the South follow it they will be in a condition to snap their fingers at the politicians and "the rest of mankind."—*National Republican.*

A MATRIMONIAL SQUABBLE.

A RATHER singular case of matrimonial infelicity came before Justice Walcott yesterday morning. A young Englishman, eighteen years of age, named Robert Whitton, was arraigned before the justice on a peace warrant sued out by his wife, who is about sixteen years old. A couple of ballet-girls figured in the proceedings, and took a lively interest in the affair.

About a year ago young Whitton was living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the same time Miss Lucy Armstrong was leading an unquiet life in Cincinnati with her mother. For some cause, not necessary to explain, Lucy left her mother and went to Pittsburgh. She there became acquainted with Whitton, and an intimacy sprang up between them.

The young girl was in needy circumstances, and received assistance from the English boy, for which she was, of course, grateful. Last summer Lucy and her mother and Whitton came to this city, and on the seventh of July the lovers were married by Justice Niemeyer, without the consent, it is alleged, of the mother. For a time they lived happily. Whitton obtained a situation as waiter at the "Hotel de Paris," on Fifth Street, and Lucy and her mother were engaged at the Museum. The young wife became acquainted with the ballet-girls at the Museum, and by their influence was induced to separate from her husband. A reconciliation was effected, but they soon quarrelled again, and once more separated. A short time ago Whitton went to Cincinnati, and made arrangements to remove with his wife to that city; but on returning he could not find her. He introduced himself to some of the detectives, and stated that he was in search of his sister, who was supposed to be in a house of ill-fame. He put up at the Southern Hotel, and obtained credit by telling the story of his erring sister. At length he discovered the whereabouts of his wife, who had her effects packed up ready to start for Cincinnati. Whitton took an axe, and going to his wife's room, threatened to kill her. For this she had him arrested, but when the case came before the jury, the young husband cried like a child, imputing the blame to the two ballet-girls, that the jury acquitted him, and last night he was arrested and taken to the calaboose on a charge of vagrancy, and if it is proved that he has been sponging at the hotels, he will probably be sent to the workhouse.—*St. Louis Democrat of November 17.*

MEMORIAL FOR THE RELEASE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

THE following is the memorial to the President adopted by the Texas Legislature, asking for the release of Jefferson Davis:

To his Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States:

The people of Texas, through their Senators and Representatives, deeply sympathizing with the misfortune of their fellow-citizen, Jefferson Davis, in his deprivation of those comforts which are found in the responses of loved ones around the domestic fireside, can only express to your Excellency the sorrow common to all the people of the Southern States at his continued confinement in prison, and the unfortunate circumstances which have thus far prevented his trial, if, indeed, he is a criminal.

In view of the fact that Jefferson Davis became the chosen leader of an unsuccessful revolution by the universal acclaim of the people of the States engaged in it—none participating more actively than the people of Texas, and none more willing to share the burdens of that revolution, or accept, in good faith, the determination of its issues—in view, too, of the fact that your Excellency has long since issued your proclamation, declaring the restoration of peace throughout all the States, and in view also of the enlightened progress which, at this day, marks the onward march of the American people, the longer confinement of Jefferson Davis is, in the opinion of your memorialists, believed to be in violation of the spirit of the age, and of the promptings of Christianity. Have not the demands of justice been already satisfied? Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord. Is the vindication of the national power still further necessary? Has not the sword terribly accomplished the work? A land rendered with blood—homes devastated and desolate—cities and towns with little left but blackened, broken, and empty walls—fields once rich with harvests and crops now silent, waste, and barren—are sufficiently eloquent for that purpose. Visit not further punishment upon the person of him whose pardon we earnestly entreat. The dark clouds of war which for four years enveloped our beloved country, have passed away. We anticipate more and more the wisdom and administration of your Excellency. May we not entertain the hope that Jefferson Davis will be permitted to breathe once more the atmosphere of freedom—that he will be again restored to the people who, having rejoiced with him in a period of prosperity, now sorrow for him in the hour of adversity?

As the crowning act of magnanimity of the great and chivalrous people whom you represent, release the prisoner, so that the last vestige of animosity between the two sections of our common country may be removed, and then the cheering notes of gladness will accompany the magic voice of peace.

This we ask in the name of the people of Texas.

A HUMAN CURIOSITY.

HAMILTON, Ohio, has a relic of the past. It exists, or rather he exists in the person of an old negro, familiarly known as Tom. A regular, genuine African negro is Tom; not one of the half-colored evidences of Southern civilization, but a thorough Guinea negro, with the thick lips and flat nose betokening his origin, and with all the eccentricities of speech, action, and manner characteristic of his race. He was brought to this country in a slave some time near the close of the last century, though at what precise time it is difficult to say, as Tom's ideas regarding dates are rather confused. Indeed, it is impossible to fix upon his precise age. In reply to a query upon this point he "reckoned he must be about five hundred." But judging from other data, it is probable Tom is somewhere between ninety-five and a hundred years of age. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis, which occurred in 1781, or eighty-five years ago. He says he was "right smart of a boy" at that time, and allowing his "right smart" to be ten years, it would make Tom ninety-five years old, which is probably not far from the actual age of this venerable and veritable descendant of Ham.

The chief interest attaching to Tom is the fact that he was present at the historical event above named, where he saw General Washington, of whom his recollection is quite distinct, and his admiration intense. He is duly sensible that there are few, if indeed, a single person now surviving who witnessed that scene, and it confers upon him no small sense of importance. He was owned at the time by a planter living in the vicinity of Yorktown, whither he had been brought soon after landing from the slave at some point on the Carolina coast.

As might be expected from the nature and character of the African, the imposing display attendant upon the surrender made a deep impression upon his memory, and he relates with considerable minuteness the details of the affair. The red coats of the British particularly struck his fancy, and he describes with much gusto and satisfaction the ceremony of grounding arms, giving an illustration of the ceremony with his iron-pointed walking-staff. Washington passed near where Tom was standing on the occasion, mounted, he says, on a white horse, and looked "mighty grand."

From his earnestness and minuteness of description, it is clear Tom is a truthful witness, and perhaps the only one left in the land. He is still stout, considering his advanced age, and bids fair to live out another decade of Winters. In pleasant weather he passes much of his time sunning himself in front of a saloon on High Street, whose friendly proprietor provides him with a comfortable arm-chair. He has a highly-developed taste for whiskey, and no one need complain of his refusal of an invitation. Altogether Tom is a genuine eccentricity and relic.—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

THE CONDITION OF MEXICO.

THE sum of what may be drawn from the conflicting reports from Mexico is that the French are really preparing to evacuate the country, and that Maximilian is trying to get away as fast as he can. Napoleon has ordered his aids to hurry up the evacuation, and his Minister has given our Government a list of the vessels which have actually sailed, or are sailing from France, to take the troops home. This, next to the actual embarkation of the troops, is the most satisfactory news that we could have.

Maximilian's baggage is at Vera Cruz, and that unworried King himself is at Orizaba, where he has been living for three weeks as a private gentleman, in which station we wish him all the happiness and prosperity his most sanguine dreams call for.

The French now hold the Capital, Vera Cruz, Puebla, and Orizaba as their only possessions in the country. They are said to be fortifying the latter place as an impregnable stronghold. Why they should be doing this when they are going to give up the post so soon is one of the mysteries that seem to surround all Franco-Mexican questions and facts.

A great victory of the Liberals is announced in the capture of Jalapa on the sixth. The place was strongly fortified and garrisoned, and was taken after a cannonading of several days.

After the evacuation the country will most need quiet till the government can be organized and a regular election held which shall decide upon the claims of Juarez, Ortega, and all other aspirants. To this end it is but just that those who are fighting her battles shall be protected until election day from the incursion of schemers from our territory. After that it should be left to take care of itself.

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This we ask in the name of the people of Texas.

AN AGED LADY MURDERED.

A SHOCKING outrage was perpetrated at Bowling Green recently (says the Nashville Dispatch) in the murder by three negroes of an old lady named Mrs. Sill. On the preceding Saturday she visited a lawyer's office in that town, and while there mentioned to the lawyer in the hearing of three negroes—one named Lewis—that she had sixty-five dollars in money at home, about a mile from town. On Monday morning, the widow's son, a little fellow, went into the field, and after a little, the weather being cold, was compelled to return for his shoes. On entering the house he was horror-struck at finding his mother lying upon the floor dead, and covered with her blood. Her head had been split open and her body frightfully gashed in various parts by an axe. By his outcry he soon aroused the neighbors, and immediate search was made for the authors of the terrible crime. The ground being soft and yielding from the rains, human tracks were soon discovered. It was noticed that one track was made by a shoe run down at the side, and having three heavy nails and a break across the middle of the shoe. These peculiarities soon led to the detection of one of the perpetrators of the awful murder. The startling news spread to Bowling Green on lightning wings, and when it reached the ears of the lawyer whom the murdered lady had visited on Saturday, he gave information of the presence of the three negro men. They were at once apprehended, and upon the negro Lewis was found a shoe corresponding precisely with the tracks leading from the poor victim's house. The wretches are in jail at Bowling Green.

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GENERAL PRESS DISPATCHES.

From Washington.

THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

DURING the proceedings of the House on Monday Representative Stevens sought to adjourn, and when he was reminded that the President's Message was soon expected, he suggested that it be read from a local newspaper, extra copies of which had been distributed before even the President's Private Secretary had reached the Capitol, and when the official message itself was communicated, he unsuccessfully endeavored to have the reading postponed till Tuesday. It was not until quarter past two that the document was transmitted, previous to which time telegrams were received here that copious extracts from the message itself were circulating in other cities. It is proper to repeat in this connection that advance copies of the President's Message and accompanying documents were sent hence to the principal cities by the Washington agent of the New York Associated Press, and that the seals were not to be broken until full official authority was given to do so, and this was at an hour when there could be no premature disclosure of their contents, against which the most solemn honor was pledged, nor is it shown that any of the agents disregarded the obligation imposed. When the Clerk of the House began to read the Message, copies in pamphlet form were supplied to the members, who hurriedly approached the distributing messenger for their supply.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The Postmaster-General's report shows that the liabilities for mail service in the late insurgent States for the year ending thirty-first June last, were only twenty-five thousand three hundred and eighty-three dollars in excess of the net revenue from postage in that section.

FULL ATTENDANCE.

After prayer by Rev. Dr. Boynton, the roll of members was called by States, and one hundred and forty-six were found to be present. The greatest number of absentees from any one State was from New